

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A product protector for protecting three edges of a product being shipped, the product protector comprising:

a pair of interlocking corner protectors, each corner protector having an inner layer and an outer layer, the inner and outer layers being partially joined together

5 along one portion and being separable along another portion wherein an area of the outer layer on one of the corner protectors is press fit between the separable inner and outer layers on the other of the corner protectors to define a generally U-shaped edge protector to protect the three edges of the product.

2. The product protector of claim 1, wherein each of the corner protectors has a generally V-shape.

3. The product protector of claim 1, wherein each outer layer has a first leg joined to a second leg, the first leg and the second leg having the same dimensions.

4. The product protector of claim 3, wherein each inner layer has a first leg joined to a second leg, the first leg of the inner layer having generally a length equal to the first leg of the outer layer, and the second leg of the inner layer being shorter in length than the length of the second leg of the outer layer.

5. The product protector of claim 4, wherein the first leg of the outer layer and the first leg of the inner layer are secured together along their entire length.

6. The product protector of claim 4, wherein the second leg of the outer layer is separated from the second leg of the inner layer to form an overlap area between an outer edge of the second leg of the inner layer and an outer edge of the second leg of the outer layer.

7. The product protector of claim 6, wherein the overlap area on the one corner protector is positioned between the second leg of the outer layer and the second leg of the inner layer on the other corner protector.
8. The product protector of claim 6, wherein with one of the corner protectors press fit into the other of the corner protectors, outer edges of the second legs of the inner layers of the corner protectors abut each other such that the adjoining second legs of the inner surfaces create a smooth inside surface for supporting one edge of the product being shipped.
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9. The product protector of claim 1, wherein one of the corner protectors is interlocked with the other of the corner protectors independent of fasteners.
10. The product protector of claim 1, wherein the inner and outer layers are constructed from laminated paperboard.
11. The product protector of claim 5, wherein the first leg of the outer layer and the first leg of the inner layer are secured together by an adhesive.

12. A method for forming a product protector used to protect three edges of a product being shipped, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a pair of interlocking corner protectors, each corner protector having an inner layer and an outer layer;

5 partially joining the inner and outer layers together along one portion thereof and keeping the inner and outer layers separable along another portion thereof; and

press fitting an area of the outer layer on one of the corner protectors between the separable portion of the inner and outer layers on the other of the corner protectors to form a generally U-shaped edge protector for protecting the three edges
10 of the product being shipped.